existing industrial units on their substantial expansion in the identified locations have been provided. As a results, as per Government of Uttaranchal, the industrial growth rate which was 1.9% in 2001-02 has increased to 18%. 7,627 SSI units were established during last two years and the current year with an investment of Rs. 1,773.00 crores and 44,000 persons have been employed. Besides, 2,460 industrial units with an investment of Rs. 21,500.00 crores are in various stages of implementation, in which employment to about 1,50,000 persons would get generated.

(c).Rs. 24.91 crores has been released in this regard by the Central Government for the State of Uttaranchal (Uttarakhand) since 2002-2003.

Industries in industrially backward districts ofAP

719. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals if any, for setting up industrial units in the industrially backward districts of Shrikakulam and Mehboobnagar in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASH WANI KUMAR): (a) and(b) The details of Industrial licenses (IL) issued and Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEM) received from entrepreneurs since 01.01.2004 till 30.09.2006 for setting up/expansion of Industrial units for the Mehboobnagar and Shrikakulam districts of Andhra Pradesh are as below:

District	IL	EM
Mehboobnagar	6	73
Shrikakulam	Nil	46

Protection of domestic vanaspathi industry

720. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate of Vanasapthi has

recommended for fixation of duty free import of Vanaspathiupto 50,000 tons per annum from Sri Lanka, as quantitative import restriction, to protect the domestic industry and oH seed farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking immediate action in implementing this recommendations in view of the fact that the domestic Vanaspathi industry is on the verge of complete closure, as 70% of the Vanaspathi Industries have already been closed down;

(c) whether Government would immediately issue necessary orders in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE **AND** INDUSTRY (SHRIJAIRAM RAMESH): (a)AII decisions relating to fixing of Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for duty free import of vanaspathi including bakery shortening and margarine from Sri Lanka have been worked out in consultation with Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution under the administrative control of which Directorate of Vanaspathi is functioning.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Inclination of South Asian countries to invest in NE

721. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Asian countries, including Malaysia, have shown their inclination for investment in industries in the North East, particularly in Assam;

(b) if so, whether any trade delegation has visited Assam to explore areas of industries/trade and if so, its outcome; and

(c) Government's response to accelerate the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE **AND** INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The regional office of RBI at Guwahati, which covers the North Eastern States, has recorded an **FDI** flow of Rs. 13.40 crore from South Asian countries for the period from January 2004 to September 2006.

(b) As per information received from the Government of Assam, an exploratory delegation had come from Bangladesh regarding making industrial investments in Assam. However, no concrete proposal has not yet been received.